

March 30 [James Wood, Frederick Town to His Excellency Governor Lee]
(By Mr. Ogle)

I have the Honor of Inclosing your Excellency a Copy of a late Instruction which I have received from the Board of War, and must beg leave to request that the Executive will Determine whether the British Convention Troops are to remain in Frederick Town, or be removed to any other part of the State, before this Point is settled, it will be impossible for me to Carry the Ideas of Congress into Execution, for shou'd I separate the men from the Officers at Present and put them under Close Confinement, and a removal shou'd afterwards be thought Necessary, it wou'd give them a very favourable Oppertunity of Escaping. On this Consideration I have Determined to Keep the Resolutions of Congress Profound Secret untill the return of M^r Ogle, by whom I hope to have your Determination. I wou'd beg leave to mention to your Excellency, that if the Troops are to remain here, it will be absolutely Necessary to have a line of Picquets round the Barracks—that the Guard shou'd be augmented 'till it is Compleated; and that M^r Murdock's hands shou'd be strengthened and open to his Procuring supplies of Provisions, which will become more Necessary when the Troops are Closely Confined. I have also Inclosed a Resolve of Congress for some Money to Bear the Expense of an Officer who is to go with the British to Connecticut, which I hope your Excellency will Direct to be sent by M^r Ogle, if Possible in Continental, as it will Pass better than any other money, except Specie. I am extremely Anxious to go to Winchester to send off the Prisoners of war, who I understand are Escaping Daily, but shall wait here untill M^r Ogle's return.

March 31 [Wm. Bordley, Chester Town, Kent Co. to His Excell^y Thos Sim Lee, Esq^r] (ᵗ Favour Cap^t Tilden)

When the two Sloops of war & two Arm'd schooners were up the Bay I immediately order'd on duty such a part of the Militia as we supposed sufficient to protect the inhabitants & property of our County, I had guards station'd from the head of the County to the lower part of it & caus'd horsemen to parade below Hourly in order to give timely notice to the Militia of any movements of the Enemy. I also directed the officers to secure or destroy all the small boats & canoes & by these early exertions I presume we owe the Safety of our property, having lost nothing on this occasion. I have now sent a row boat over to Annapolis hoping that Your Excellency will furnish us with the two field peices, the Arms & Ammunition with some Cart-ridge paper. I apprehend that our communication will very soon be totally cut off & without the means of defence we shall be in the most deplorable situation, we are determin'd to oppose the enemy at all events should they visit us (which I think is more than probable they having full possession of the Bay) but this opposition must be